

**August 14, 1998 - MINUTES**

**Council on Information Management**

**Virginia Geographic Information Network Division**

**Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board**

Virginia Department of Agriculture

1100 Band Street

Richmond, Virginia

Members Present: The Honorable John Watkins, *Chairman*

Daniel S. Shaffer, *Vice Chairman*

The Honorable W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.

W. Page Cockrell

David R. Gehr

Jean Tingler for Wayne L. Sterling

Michael D. Clower

Dr. W. Mark Crain

N. Jerry Simonoff

Members Absent: The Honorable Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.

Sue D. Hansohn

The Honorable R. Edward Houck

Brian P. McFadzen

William C. Cleveland

Ken Anderson

Kenneth D. Barker

Others William D. Shinar, VGIN Division Coordinator  
Present: (see attached attendance log)

The Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Chair, the Honorable John Watkins.

The draft minutes of the June 6, 1998 VGIN Advisory Board meeting were approved as presented.

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## VDOT Data Distribution Plan

Tim Klinker, VDOT Cartographer, made a presentation on VDOT's Data Distribution plans. VDOT's County Map series have been digitized. Working with Timmons, Inc, VDOT has built from these raw digital files, true replicas of the County Map series including annotation, mileage measurements, road numbers, bridges, enhanced graphics, and detailed map insets.

The data will be released on CD in two packages. The "basic" package will contain instructions on installation and use, metadata, general information including any restrictions and the raw digital files, referred to as "black spaghetti". The "enhanced" package will contain instructions on installation and use, metadata, general information including information on copyright restrictions and the digital files. The "enhanced" package contains the raw digital files, as well as, the annotation, formatting, enhanced graphics, map insets, etc. which will allow the user to perfectly replicate VDOT County Road Maps. The "enhanced" package will include clear and concise language on the copyright restrictions for the VDOT County Map series.

Tim demonstrated the browser interface that will allow CD users to easily move through the information and begin to produce maps. Tim also discussed the information that VDOT would attempt to document on individuals and organizations that obtain copies of the data.

Following Tim's presentation Chairman Watkins, several board members, and Coordinator Shinar commended and thanked Commissioner David Gehr and the VDOT staff for making such a significant information resource available to the public and for all the work that has gone into the effort.

In the Discussion Dr. Mark Crain suggested that VDOT track the distribution and use of their data. Dr. Crain thought it would be very useful to document the cost savings in

various sectors relative to free access and use of the VDOT road data. Dr. Crain suggested that we could probably measure the actual benefits and impacts of the data across the Commonwealth. Pete Kolakowski, Deputy Commissioner of VDOT, indicated that the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC) was already looking at the benefits and impacts of the data.

Erica Baughman, a rising law student at the University of Virginia, working for the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC) made a presentation on the status of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and copyright laws in Virginia. Erica explained the definition of "facts" and "value added" or enhanced data in relation to maps and digital map data and outlined the legal logic and justifications used for VDOT's "basic" and "enhanced" map data packages.

## **VGIN COORDINATOR'S STATUS REPORT**

Mr. Shinar briefed the Board on a number of items and activities.

### **Agency Geographic Information System Reporting Requirement**

Mr. Shinar summarized the results of the VGIN GIS data reporting survey.

15 agencies completed the full NSGIC framework survey

20 agencies are working with GIS

20 agencies are interested in GIS

39 agencies indicated they were not interested in GIS

The remaining agencies did not report

The next reporting date is September 30. Mr. Shinar restated the policy that until a completely automated reporting procedure was in place VGIN would not require compliance with the reporting requirements.

### **NSGIC Framework Survey**

Mr. Shinar also indicated that he had been able to obtain an early release of the NSGIC survey results for Virginia. He reported that 159 agencies, organizations, regional and local governments, and private companies had responded to the survey.

### **Grants and Funding**

Mr. Shinar announced that James Madison University had won a NSGIC/FGDC grant to support the development of metadata at three federal and three state facilities in Virginia. He hoped to arrange for James Wilson to make a presentation to the Board in the future.

Mr. Shinar provided a letter in support of James Madison University's efforts to collaborate with the University of Maryland in obtaining a three year grant from NASA.

### CIM/VGIN Web Site

Mr. Shinar indicated that he was in the process of identifying a vendor that could provide some fairly straight forward support in updating the VGIN web page. Mr. Shinar has been in the process of reviewing the Web sites and Clearinghouses of other States. He has had contact with clearinghouse staffs in Georgia, North Carolina, and Kansas. These staffs were providing information on implementation plans, development costs, staffing requirements and descriptions, and problems and experiences.

Mr. Shinar included in the Boards notebooks a sampling of pages from the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse Web Site. He felt this was a very good example of the type of site that we would like to have in Virginia. Mr. Shinar led the Board through the Web pages, which provided some insight into the logic, order, and capabilities of the Georgia site. There was considerable discussion, and Board members were impressed with what Georgia has been able to accomplish. Chairman Watkins felt that Georgia's site would be a good example to strive for in the development of our Clearinghouse site.

### Land Records Management Task Force

Mr. Shinar reported on his work for the Land Records Management Task Force (LRMTF), including the development of a strawman for County Clerks to use in assessing their individual technical development strategies and a presentation on GIS and land records to a combined meeting of the County Clerks and County Revenue Commissioners in Charlottesville.

### State Agencies' GIS User Group

Mr. Shinar indicated he had met with the State agencies users group and that he would be taking responsibility for staffing that group. He commended CBLAD and its staff for the efforts they had made in staffing the group since its inception. Mr. Clower explained CBLAD's role in supporting the State users group.

There was some discussion about participation in the State users group. Mr. Shaffer expressed his hope that the private sector would be involved. Mr. Shinar indicated that in discussions at the user meeting the State agency personnel present had specifically spoken to the fact that they would prefer to keep the user group focused on State agencies (essentially excluding local and private sector users). They were concerned that by enlarging the group the agenda would become too broad and the private sectors participation might inhibit open discussion of ideas and activities. Mr. Shinar hoped that VGIN would be able to sponsor user groups that would allow each individual group to focus on their individual needs, while at the same time providing avenues for the groups to come together to share information, ideas, and insights, and develop a wider agenda.

Finally, Mr. Shinar provided a summary of the contacts he had made and meetings he had attended since the last board meeting. (See the last page of the handout).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning Committee.** No report.

**Standards and Policy Committee.** No report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Shinar indicated that the FY 1999-2000 budget amendments were due on September 21, 1998. Mr. Shinar anticipated preparing and submitting a budget amendment and planned to try and meet with individual members of the board in the interim to discuss VGIN's strategic plan and possible budget initiatives.

## **BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for December 18, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. at the 20<sup>th</sup> floor presentation center of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, West Tower, 901 East Byrd Street, Richmond, VA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

William D. Shinar

VGIN Division Coordinator

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## **LOG OF ATTENDEES**

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Company/Agency</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Erica<br>Bachmann | VTRC                  |
| Daniel<br>Knopp   | Virginia Power        |
| Randy<br>Trott    | Timmons, Inc.         |
| Pattie<br>Booker  | VHDA                  |

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Renee Lacy         | VHDA  |
| Daryl<br>Glover    | CBLAD |
| Larry<br>Cauldwell | VDOT  |
| Pete<br>Kolakowski | VDOT  |
| Tim<br>Klinker     | VDOT  |

## VGIN Coordinator Meeting and Activity List

Virginia PDC State Conference, Virginia Beach (presentation)

Center for Environmental Studies (VCU)

Virginia Health Department

Timmons

York County GIS

Virginia State Library

Baker Environmental

IBM

Paddy Katzen (DEQ)

Department of Conservation and Recreation – Karl Huber

URISA – Panel on NC GIS Coordination

Presentation on GIS in economic development and planning

Local Official Conference, Charlottesville (presentation)